

Serial No.: 10/674,428  
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

--The collecting bag has a bag member {2} formed by a first and a second film blank {2,3}, and a discharge portion {8} that is foldable and unfoldable to bring the discharge portion from an open unfolded condition to a closed folded condition and vice versa. A first plate member {21} is positioned on the first film blank {2} and a second plate member {22} is positioned on an extension {3a} of the second film blank {3}. ~~A locking device is provided at the discharge portion for locking the bag in the closed folded condition of the discharge portion.~~ Each plate member {21,22} is formed from a relatively stiff material, and the distance {d} between the distal edge {21b} of the first plate member {21} and the proximal edge {22a} of the second plate member {22} is smaller than the thickness of the first plate member. When folding the discharge portion, the distal edge of the first plate member acts as a pivot, and a stretching effect is created on the second film blank to effectively seal the discharge opening without deformation of the plate members.--